

ABSTRACT

HA-1546

MASON-DIXON LINE: MILESTONE NO. 31(33)

1766 (reset 1902)

Graceton, Maryland vicinity

Public/private

Milestone No. 31(33) marks Mason and Dixon's 31st horizontal mile west of the initial stone at the northeast corner of Maryland, the beginning point of their 230.228-mile West Line, the longest of their survey lines run and marked to define the boundary between the English provinces of Maryland and Pennsylvania. The monument, first set in 1766, is an embellished, oolitic limestone post with a low pyramidal top, quarried and carved in England, originally measuring ^{about} 12" square by about 4½' in length, cut to stand about 3' above ground. Reset in 1902 to stand about 1½' high, during the course of the 1900-03 Resurvey of the Maryland-Pennsylvania boundary, it remains in fair condition, unaltered but badly chipped on the northeast and northwest corners, with much of the east and west faces gone. The capital letter P on the north (Pennsylvania) side is distinct but chipped; the letter M on the south (Maryland) side is clear and intact, and with patches of fluting and margins remaining. There are chips along all edges and the top corners, and noticeable weathering of the top planes. The significance of this monument federally and on the state level is primarily as one of the series of 135 original monuments still standing along the West Line, commonly known as the Mason-Dixon Line since Civil War times, and as a reminder of this survey's impact a century earlier. Locally, it is significant as one of 17 original monuments marking the present Harford/York county boundary, amongst the few and diminishing number of objects and structures still visually identifiable with our colonial and Civil War heritage.

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST

Survey No. HA-1546

Magi No.

INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

1 NAME BOUNDARY MARKERS ALONG THE MASON-DIXON LINE (THEMATIC GROUP)

HISTORIC (Mason and Dixon's) West Line, 31st Mile Stone

AND/OR COMMON

Mason-Dixon Line: Milestone No. 31 (1900-03 Resurvey Monument No. 33)

2 LOCATION (not for publication)

STREET & NUMBER off south side of Line Road (PA LR-66068)

CITY, TOWN

Graceton

☒ VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

MD: 1 / PA: 19

STATE

Maryland

COUNTY

MD: Harford / PA: York

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY

OWNERSHIP

STATUS N/A

PRESENT USE

☐ DISTRICT

☒ PUBLIC

☐ OCCUPIED

☐ AGRICULTURE

☐ MUSEUM

☐ BUILDING(S)

☐ PRIVATE

☐ UNOCCUPIED

☐ COMMERCIAL

☐ PARK

☐ STRUCTURE

☐ BOTH

☐ WORK IN PROGRESS

☐ EDUCATIONAL

☐ PRIVATE RESIDENCE

☐ SITE

☒ PUBLIC ACQUISITION

☒ ACCESSIBLE

☐ ENTERTAINMENT

☐ RELIGIOUS

☒ OBJECT

☐ IN PROCESS

☒ YES: RESTRICTED

☐ GOVERNMENT

☐ SCIENTIFIC

☐ BEING CONSIDERED

☐ YES: UNRESTRICTED

☐ INDUSTRIAL

☐ TRANSPORTATION

☐ NO

☐ MILITARY

☒ OTHER: state boundary marker

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY (monument only; see Thematic Group NR nomination form)

NAME State of Maryland/Commonwealth of Pennsylvania

Telephone #:

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

☐ VICINITY OF

STATE, zip code

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION N/A

(see surrounding property ownership list)

Liber #:

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Folio #:

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

STATE

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS (also see Thematic Group NR nomination form)

TITLE Harford County Historic Sites Inventory

DATE

HA-1546 entered 2/25/80

☐ FEDERAL ☒ STATE ☐ COUNTY ☐ LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

Maryland Historical Trust

CITY, TOWN

Annapolis

STATE

Maryland

7 DESCRIPTION

Survey No. HA-1546

CONDITION

☐ EXCELLENT
☐ GOOD
☒ FAIR

☐ DETERIORATED
☐ RUINS
☐ UNEXPOSED

CHECK ONE

☒ UNALTERED
☐ ALTERED

CHECK ONE

☒ ORIGINAL SITE
☐ MOVED DATE _____

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Milestone No. 31(33) marks Mason and Dixon's 31st horizontal mile west of the initial stone at the northeast corner of Maryland, the betinning point of their 230.228- mile West Line. It is an original milestone of 1766, in fair condition, unaltered, at an original site where it was reset in 1902 at the time of the 1900-03 Resurvey of the Maryland-Pennsylvania boundary.

The area here is rolling, open farmland, with occasional patches of woods, often bordering ^{in Harford County's Election District 5, York County's Peach} property lines. The site is/in the middle of a cultivated field, about ½ mile east of the cluster of houses comprising Graceton, Maryland; about 2 miles west of Delta, Pennsylvania; about 800' south of Line Road (PA LR-66068); about 500' southwest of the Steve Balach's new house. It cannot be seen from the road, but easily from the Balach house when vegetation is dormant.

The milestone, quarried and carved in England, is an embellished oolitic limestone ^{with a low pyramidal top} post, originally measuring about 12" square by about 4½' in length and cut to stand about 3' above ground. Reset more firmly in 1902 to stand about 1½' high, it has gradually been filled around to stand only about 9" high, and has been badly chipped, particularly on the north ^(Pennsylvania) side, where the capital P is clear but nicked and the face misshapen from chunks out of the northeast and northwest top corners almost to the ground. Most of the east and west faces are gone; but the south side facing Maryland is fairly intact, with the capital letter M and its circle panel clear, and bits of fluting and margins remaining. The top planes are still discernible but badly weatherworn, with a pit in the apex. There are small chips along all edges and the top corners. It has been unprotected from farm machinery for many years, but the Balachs have been leaving it in an island of uncultivated grass, hoping to preserve it.

(see Thematic Group National Register nomination form for descriptions of the original Mason and Dixon monuments and the 1900-03 Resurvey method of resetting them)

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

(see Thematic Group National Register nomination form)

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATAACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY less than one acre

Quadrangle name: Delta (USGS 7.5 minute series, Maryland-Pennsylvania)
scale 1:24000

UTM reference: zone 18, easting 38229, northing 439750

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION N/A

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE Maryland COUNTY Harford

STATE Pennsylvania COUNTY York

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE Alice Martin (volunteer, Mason-Dixon Line boundary marker surveyor)

ORGANIZATION	DATE	(site surveyed by)
Maryland Historical Trust/Maryland Geological Survey	2/14/80	Jean Ewing)
STREET & NUMBER	TELEPHONE	
14308 Mount Avenue	301/472-2128	
CITY OR TOWN	STATE	
Phoenix	Maryland	21131

The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature, to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 Supplement.

The Survey and Inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

RETURN TO: Maryland Historical Trust
The Shaw House, 21 State Circle
Annapolis, Maryland 21401
(301) 267-1438

5703 IV SW
(AIRVILLE)

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
GEOLOGICAL SURVEY

HA-1546
MASON & DIXON WEST LINE: MILESTONE 31 (33)
DELTA QUADRANGLE
MARYLAND-PENNSYLVANIA
USGS 7.5 MINUTE SERIES (TOPOGRAPHIC)
1956 PHOTO REV. 1974 SCALE: 1"=200'





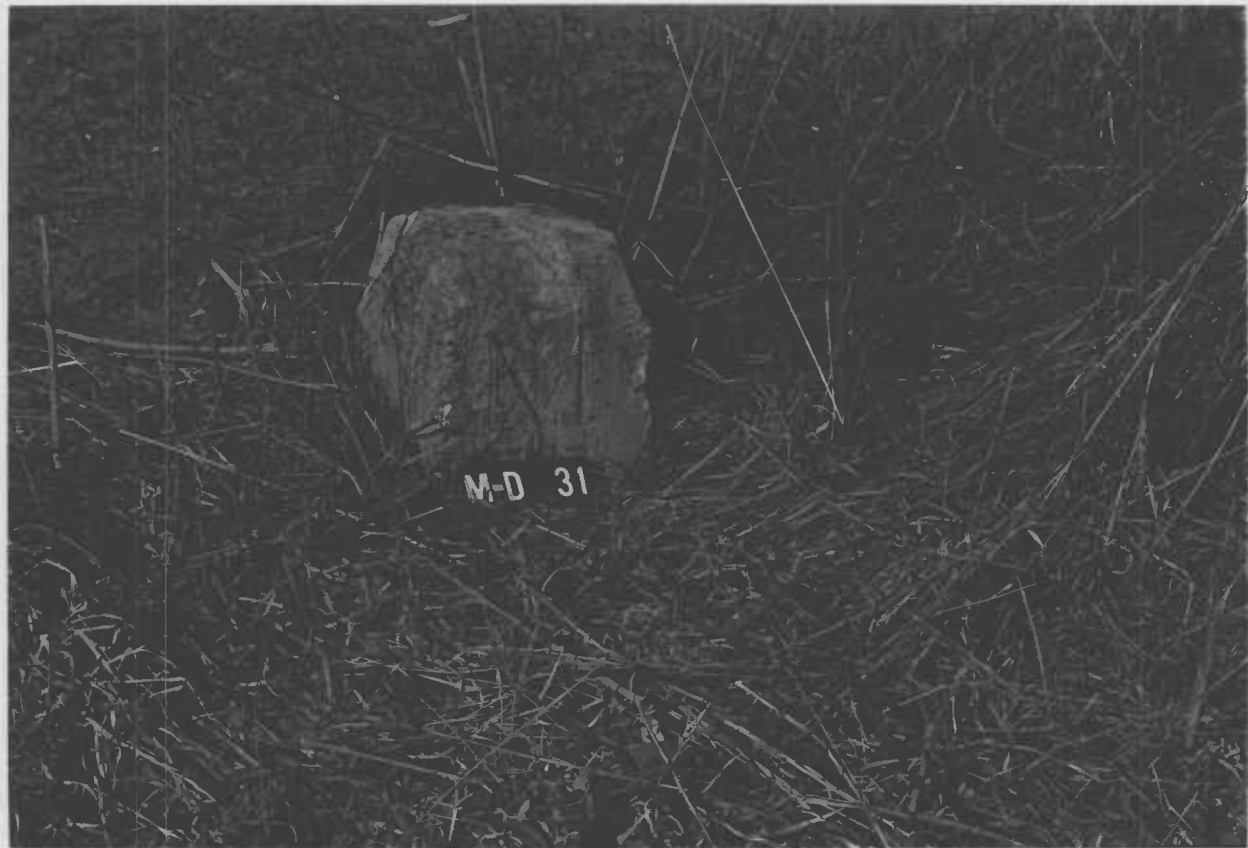
HA-1546 Mason Dixon #31

Mason & Dixon west line, ^{1/4} mile stone 31
(33)

PHOTO: JEAN EWING - 2/11/80 (NEG #11)

North & East faces
(P)

Balach property



MHT

HA-1546

WEST & SOUTH (M) FACES

Mason & Dixon west line; ^{THE} stone #31 (33)
1

South west faces

Balach property

PHOTO: JEAN

Ewing 14 Feb 80 (141-#8)